

# RESOLUTION 20141002-047 PRELIMINARY BRIEFING: COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

## Overview

### City Auditor directed to:

- Study how Austin's peer cities with Council-Manager governments structure their council committees
- Study how those committees provide council oversight for city departments
- Study practices in council meeting management
- Provide a report for public consideration (Dec. 5)
- Post a public hearing (Dec. 11)



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#	Peer City	CCs	CMs
1	Phoenix, AZ	7	9
2	<b>San Antonio, TX</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>
3	<b>Dallas, TX</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>
4	San Jose, CA	7	11
5	Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC	8	11
6	<b>Fort Worth, TX</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
7	Oklahoma City, OK	8	9
8	Kansas City, MO	8	13
Peer City Average:		<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>



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## Peer Cities: Common Council Committees

Audit	All
Housing/Neighborhoods	All
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>All</b>
Transportation/Infrastructure	7
Budget/Finance	7
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Environment/Quality of Life</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Legislative</b>	<b>4</b>
Judicial	3
<b>Intergovernmental Relations</b>	<b>3</b>
Social Services	2
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>2</b>

**BOLD = Austin  
does not have a  
dedicated Council  
Committee**



Office of the City Auditor  
Kenneth J. Mory, City Auditor

November 18, 2014



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## Council Committee Structure

### How Created

- Mayor/Council (**4 of 7**)
- Code/Rules (**3 of 7**)
- Austin = **Code/Rules**

### Composition of Members

- All council members except 2 audit committees
  - **San Antonio:** 3 council, 2 public
  - **Phoenix:** 3 council, 3 public, 3 management  
(Auditor reports to management)



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## Council Committee Structure

### Number of Committee Members

- Range from **3 to 10** – Average is **5**
- Austin = Range from **3 to 7** – Average is **4**

### Number of Committee Meetings/Action (FY 14)

- Range from **0 to 44** – Average is **12**
- Austin = Range from **4 to 15** – Average is **10**
- Action = Recommend to full council



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## Council Committee Coverage

### Department Coverage

- Range from **30% to 61%** – Average is **47%**
- Austin = **37%**

### Budget Coverage

- Range from **25% to 83%** – Average is **53%**
- Austin = **58%** (16% without Austin Energy)





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## Council Meeting Management

### Council Meeting Practices

- Researching general practices and identifying trends/practices from peer cities

### Council Meeting Rules

- All designate the **Mayor** as presiding officer
- Rules (**6 of 8**)
- “Local Tradition” (**2 of 8**)
- Austin = **Robert’s Rules of Order**



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## Council Meeting Management (FY 14)

City	Meetings per Year	Length of Meetings	Agenda Items per Meeting
Peer Cities	Range is <b>22 to 44</b>	Range is <b>1:15 to 6:40</b>	Range is <b>25 to 85</b>
	Average is <b>35</b>	Average is <b>3:18</b>	Average is <b>52</b>
Austin	<b>24</b>	Average is <b>9:31</b>	Average is <b>87</b>





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## Next Steps

- Incorporate Work Session Feedback
- Finalize Data Gathering, Analysis, and Reliability Work
- Issue Report on **December 5, 2014**
- Attend Public Hearing on **December 11, 2014**

